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Le Lot. Padirac, Rocamadour, Lacave. Guide du Touriste, du Naturaliste et de l'Archéologue. Par Armand Viré. vii and 310 pp., 89 Illustrations, mostly from Photographs, 3 Maps, and 3 Plans in Colours. Masson & Co., Paris, 1907. (Price, frs. 4.50.)

The latest volume in the Collection Boule, which now numbers six guidebooks that are much appreciated by tourists and students of natural science and archæology. The volume deals with the department of Lot, which has great attractions for the tourist and naturalist as it is one of the most picturesque regions in France. Its old towns and châteaux are full of interest and charm and here are caverns such as the grottos of Lacave and the subterranean lakes of Padirac which French students of caves have made famous. The photographs and maps are excellent and the text fulfills its helpful purpose.

Scientific Confirmations of Old Testament History. By G. Frederick Wright, D.D., LL.D., F.G.A.A. 12mo, pp. xv, 432. Bibliotheca Sacra Co., Oberlin, Ohio, 1906.

There is a growing tendency to regard legends and traditions as important repositories of scientific truth. As they are traced back to earlier, simpler forms, it generally appears that they have their origin in striking natural phenomena. The most unexpected details are usually the most significant, partly because they are the least likely to be the product of imagination, and partly because they can be the most easily tested in the light of modern science. In his recent book on scientific confirmation of Old Testament history, Professor Wright not only emphasizes this principle but goes farther and assumes that the stories of the Bible are the almost unchanged records left by eye-witnesses to the events described. In order, as he distinctly says, to support this assumption and to prove thereby the reliability of the Bible, he investigates the accounts of various events from the standpoint of geography and geology.

After three well-written chapters of somewhat theological general discussion, the author takes up "the records of four startling events which are peculiarly open to scientific cross-examination. They are: (1) the passage of the Red Sea; (2) the parting of the Jordan; (3) the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; and (4) the Noachian deluge." The passage of the Red Sea by the Hebrews as they fled from Egypt is explained in the usual way as having been rendered possible by the driving away of the water from a shallow bar at the northern end of the Gulf of Suez by a violent northeast wind. The details of the narrative in Genesis make it probable that the Isthmus of Suez in the days of the Pharoahs stood thirty feet lower than now. The crossing of the Jordan River dry-shod at a later date by the invading Israelites under Joshua as they passed westward from Moab to Judea is equally susceptible of scientific explanations. On the evidence of a series of alluvial terraces, the conclusion is reached that the river was several times temporarily dammed by a sudden anticlinal arching of the lower part of its bed. The Israelites crossed the dry bed of the river on one such arch immediately after its formation. Though such a movement of the earth's crust is possible, no convincing evidence of it is presented. So far as can be gathered from Prof. Wright's description, the terraces, like hundreds of others in the arid regions of Asia, may be the result of alternate deposition and erosion under the varying climatic conditions of glacial and inter-glacial epochs. As an alternative hypothesis the author suggests, but does not accept, the simple and plausible theory that the narrow inner gorge of the Jordan was temporarily dammed by a land-